

September 29, 2006

The Dagger's Edge

Bringing you the Soldiers' view!



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Dagger Vision

The Dagger Brigade Combat Team will be trained and ready, fully deployable, disciplined, confident, dedicated and serving selflessly with pride.

We are caring of one another and sensitive to the needs of our Soldiers, family members and DA civilians.

We communicate accurately across the chain of command and work together as a combined arms team of teams.

We are responsible stewards of our Nation's treasure.

We are professionals and ambassadors of our Nation and responsible and respected guests in the Schweinfurt Community, and wherever we find ourselves.

We are flexible, motivated and fully capable of executing any assigned tasks to standard regardless of the challenges.

Commander's Net Call

Soldiers, Families and Friends of the Greatest Brigade Combat Team Ever Formed,

The Dagger Brigade Combat Team is assembled on Camp Buehring, Kuwait, less Task Force Spader which is doing great work in Eastern Baghdad as part of the 4th Infantry Division's efforts there. We have completed the deployment of our Soldiers, received our equipment, occupied our living spaces and continue with the tasks of readying ourselves for future missions.

Training resources here provide many tremendous opportunities for Commanders to tailor their training program to meet their Soldiers and their unit's needs. Our Soldiers are out in the heat every day, in full Dagger Combat Uniform, and they are performing magnificently, due to their tremendous motivation, aggressiveness, and quality leadership at every echelon. This is a tremendous team of highly trained Soldiers and it is evident in everything that they do.

Our training at Grafenwohr and Hohenfels, while in Central Europe, was under much tougher living conditions than what we are experiencing here. Mail arrives here daily, with an average time of 4-7 days delivery between Schweinfurt and Camp Buehring for both letters and packages. Facilities here at Camp Buehring are super. There is chow aplenty, outstanding training facilities, a set of fantastic fitness centers and plenty of AAFES concessionaires for our Soldiers to get what they want and need. There's even indoor and outdoor movie theaters, and a Bazaar that occurs at the end of the month where local vendors will be selling all sorts of stuff.

On another note, the living quarters for our Soldiers here are a bit crowded with up to 75 Soldiers in one tent, along with Company Command Posts in some cases. But these are really big tents, with Air Conditioning and electricity and lots of cots. We have our Preventive Medicine Doctors inspect every living area weekly to ensure the conditions do not pose a risk to our Soldier's health, and everything has checked out OK thus far.

Because of the high temperatures, most of the desert critters aren't out and about yet, with the exception of the camels and an occasional lizard. We have no incidents of sand flies, but we are watching for them. Our Soldiers were provided the opportunity to fully treat their uniforms with Permethrin prior to deployment to repel the insects that we will likely see with the arrival of cooler temperatures. I've seen lots of Soldiers treating their uniforms here, just to be on the safe side. As the temperatures cool to a mild 104° F here in Kuwait during the daylight hours, with the calming wind blown sand getting into everything (and I mean everything!), the Dagger BCT continues its preparations for future missions with the pride and enthusiasm that has become our hallmark.

The Dagger BCT collectively mourns the loss of two great Steel Tiger Soldiers from Task Force Spader who lost their lives on 03 September, 2006 while conducting Combat Operations in East Baghdad. SGT Jason L. Merrill and PFC Edwin A. Andino II were both well-known across the Steel Tiger formation for their wit, ever present smile and infectious positive attitude. We offer our sincerest condolences to their families during their time of mourning with hopes that their sorrow is somehow tempered by a personal pride in knowing that their sons were willing to step forward in defense of their Nation.

May God continue to bless you and keep you, our Soldiers, and our Great Nation. Thank each and every one of you for all you do every day to make this Brigade Combat Team the Greatest Brigade Combat Team Ever Formed!

WE CONTINUE MISSION!
DUTY FIRST!

COLONEL J.B. BURTON
Commanding Officer
Dagger Brigade Combat Team



P.S. For everyone's information, I've discovered that SGM Dave Martel hand writes a letter to Nancy once a day. When I discovered this was happening I directed him to knock it off, because he is making the rest of us look bad!

Command Sergeant Major

The Soldiers of Task Force 1-26 along with the Dagger Brigade advanced party deployed to Kuwait in early August to train and to move the Blue Spaders into Iraq to begin conducting combat operations. This deployment was a huge success due to the hard work by all involved; currently, Task Force 1-26 is now fully engaged in combat operations and making all of us very proud.

The Dagger Brigade is now fully deployed to the hot, dry desert of Kuwait and is conducting additional training and test firing of all weapons. From personal pistols and rifles to tanks, Bradleys, and artillery, we have ensured all are in perfect working condition. Soldiers are also fine tuning all of the skills they have been taught during previous training prior to deployment. These efforts consistently improve their warrior proficiency and prepare them to take their place in the Global War on Terrorism.

The deployment of the Dagger Brigade was a Battalion and Company event with each unit doing things a little different. The departure ceremonies ranged from a cook out in the motor pool to a small party held at the Conn Club in Schweinfurt. There was definitely no shortage of families, loved ones, friends, and others who supported the Soldiers from Schweinfurt. There were supporters not only from the military community, but also the German community to see the BCT on our way. It's always emotional when you depart from your families and friends, but once here you get into the swing of things and fall into a routine very quickly. The Soldiers now have their battle buddies, wingmen, and leaders to take care of and watch over them. The Soldiers become each others families while they are away from their own.

Families will also do many things together to pass the coming months with ease, but also always have the assistance of the great Task Force Guardian command team. The Battalion and Company Soldiers that have been selected to remain in Schweinfurt are some of the best the Dagger Brigade has the offer and will take care of our families and Soldiers when called upon.

The community and garrison leadership as well as the staff who make everything happen are truly dedicated and focused on caring and taking care of any issues which may arise during this long year. The Family Readiness Groups are some of the most compassionate and energetic people you will ever want on your team. So with all this in place the Soldiers can stay battle focused and do their duty.

Finally, as we move on to whatever our nation asks of us, everyone should feel very proud of what is happening in this period of time throughout the Dagger Brigade. See you on the high ground!

DAGGER! DUTY FIRST!



The Greatest Brigade Combat Team Ever Formed!

Chaplain's Focus on Faith

Focus on Faith – Facing our Fears in Life

The departure of the 2d Brigade Combat Team from home station and arrival on the front lines of the global war on terror has thrust all of us into a long period of separation from friends, family, and the familiar. Soldiers must deal with new, austere surroundings, and families must adjust from the old familiar rhythms of life to a new "normal" without their Soldier. It causes all of us to face new challenges, regardless of whether we are in the dangers of combat, engaged in long days of support missions, or family members adjusting to the separation. In these times of uncertainty we often tend to fear the worst, and we wonder if we will be OK. Will my Soldier be safe? Will I be able to cope? Will my kids be permanently affected by this? If we are not careful, these fears can take root in our hearts and overwhelm us. How do we face these fears? An Old testament story in the Bible in 2 Kings 6:8-23 can help us.

A man named Ben Hadad was king of Aram, a small kingdom was just north of Israel in what is now Syria. From time to time his forces would engage in border skirmishes with the army of Israel to their south. In Israel, the prophet Elisha was gifted by God to warn the Israelite king, Joram, about these attacks, and the Israelites would prevail over the much stronger Arameans. Ben Hadad was understandable angry, and eventually found out that Elisha was tipping off the Israelites, and he sent a sizeable force to capture the old prophet.

One morning, Elisha's servant walked out of his tent and saw the Aramean forces surrounding them. His stammering question is awash with fear: "O, my lord, what shall we do?" Perhaps you have asked that question in the last few weeks. "O Lord, how will we get through this? Will my soldier really return to me unharmed? Will he or she come back as a totally different person, someone I don't know? Will our kids be OK? Will I be able to hold myself together in these long months?" These are all valid questions and reflect the realities of our lives right now. But they are also based only on what we can see, just as the servant's fear was based on the large enemy force he could see around him. His fears were understandable, but his vision wasn't clear.

Elisha could see more, and he tells his panicked friend, "Don't be afraid." Do you hear the comfort that flows from those words? God offers them to you: "Don't be afraid." In his circumstances, how could Elisha say that? Because he saw with more than just his eyes. His eyes looked through the glasses of faith, and it enabled him to see much more. Elisha prayed for his servant, "O Lord, open his eyes so he may see." Everything changed, and the servant saw that the hills were full of horses and chariots of fire, the army of the Lord. We are not alone!

There will be days when all you can see is an adverse world surrounding you, and you might feel helpless and alone. And there will be days when you will clearly see the hand of God, and you will experience peace and safety and security like you have never known before, and in a weird sort of way you may even be able to rejoice that you are walking this road. When your faith glasses "fog up," lean on someone whose vision is clearer than yours at that moment. When you can see clearly, share it with someone who needs a vision of hope. A personal trust in God can give you the clear vision it takes to see your way through the next year. God bless you.



Chaplain Mikkelson visits Chaplain Choi and SGT Soto of TF Spader in Baghdad.



Chaplain Mikkelson (right) travels with the Brigade S3, MAJ Parmeter, to another camp in order to minister to Soldiers.

Vanguards

On the first days of September, after saying their goodbyes, the Vanguard main body moved from their home in Schweinfurt, Germany to Camp Buehring, Kuwait. After first stepping off the plane in Kuwait, Soldiers instantly felt the heat of the Kuwaiti desert. It was quite a shock to move from the cool German climate to the oppressive heat of their new home.

Prior to leaving for Iraq, LTC Glaze made sure to leave a world class organization behind to take care of Vanguard families. The Family Readiness Group stood up 8 months prior to the deployment and spent that time developing the systems and personalities to handle any mission or task that might arise during the deployment. Although the deployment will be a tough time for families, they can rest assured that the FRG, with the support of the command team, will be there to lend a helping hand when needed.



Anxious to tackle the mission at hand, the Vanguards began acclimating to the heat, receiving their shipped equipment and vehicles, and started individual and team level training, all the while planning for future operations. At the Soldier level, concentration on immediate tasks was the best way to keep them focused. At the upper echelons, the uncertain future forced the battalion planners to look at several different possible scenarios, each with a broad spectrum of problem sets.

Although the Soldiers' focus at Camp Buehring is to prepare for sustained combat operations in our future area of responsibility, Soldiers also take personal time to reflect on the future and their families at home. The goal of gradually transitioning the Soldiers from the comforts of home to the rigors of combat is stressful. However, Soldiers take the time to decompress by writing letters home, working out

at the gym, relaxing at the MWR facilities, playing video games, and reading. The balance of training and personal time has greatly eased the transition.

The training at Camp Buehring has been diverse and useful. Soldiers have gone to desert ranges to fire their personal weapons, crew served weapons, and Bradley Fighting Vehicles. Classes provided by the Asymmetric Warfare Group taught Soldiers and leaders techniques on how to defeat Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) using newly developed tactics and procedures. Soldiers have also received classes on cultural awareness provided by Chaplain George to enhance the understanding of the Iraqi people.



The Vanguards' deployment in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom began with the movement to Kuwait and difficult times lay ahead. Over the next year, the Vanguard battalion will face an elusive and dangerous enemy, train Iraqi Security Forces, and rebuild the Iraqi infrastructure, all in the hopes of providing security and stability in the region. Although these tasks seem daunting, there is no task too difficult that the Vanguards cannot overcome.

Ready to Strike!



Steel Tigers



TASK FORCE TIGER HITS THE GROUND RUNNING IN CAMP BUEHRING, KUWAIT

After months of intense training densities in Grafenwoher and Hohenfels Germany, Task Force 1-77 AR "Steel Tigers" arrived in Camp Buehring Kuwait. Arrival and billeting activities complete, Task Force Tiger got to work right away. The Soldiers of the Task Force immediately began small arms weapons ranges, honing their accuracy and lethality, while simultaneously instilling confidence in their ability to engage and destroy any target with their assigned weapons systems. Soldiers spent several days confirming their marksmanship, and qualifying on their personal weapons.



The Soldiers continued their preparation for full spectrum combat operations by focusing on small unit tactics and Close Quarters Marksmanship (CQM). Task Force Tiger was afforded the opportunity to utilize multiple training tools to accomplish these tasks. Each company in the task force spent long hours at the Buehring Military Operations in Urban Terrain (MOUT) site. This training site presents Soldiers with mock buildings that they are tasked to clear of any threats, replicating conditions they will experience in Iraq. Soldiers were also afforded the opportunity to train on real world engagement scenarios in a simulator, as well as conduct a CQM live fire range.

Simultaneous with training at Camp Buehring, Task Force Tiger spearheaded port support activities in the port of Kuwait under the control of the Task Force Tiger XO. Soldiers from across the Brigade downloaded hundreds of pieces of equipment from the ship in 22 hours; the fastest time the port authorities have ever witnessed. Over the next 10 days, the PSA detail staged and moved all of the Brigade Combat Team's equipment forward to Camp Buehring. Following completion of the mission, Dagger 6 congratulated the PSA detachment on a job well done, and awarded them with 16 Army Commendation Medals. Once the equipment closed on Camp Buehring, Task Force Tiger took their M1A1 Tanks, and M2A2 Bradley Fighting Vehicles and immediately began training on them. Over several days the Steel Tigers worked tirelessly to ensure their fleet was well maintained and fired accurately. Upon completion of their live fire, the Soldiers of Task Force Tiger gained complete confidence in their armored systems and their ability to employ them in combat.



The result of the intense training activities at Camp Buehring is a Task Force of highly confident, intelligent and lethal Soldiers prepared to engage in any combat mission to which they are assigned. Whether mounted in armor, motorized, or patrolling on foot, Task Force Tiger is ready to take the fight to the enemy..

BLOOD ON THE AXE!!

First Lightning

Midway through an intensive training exercise in Grafshwoehr, the First Lightning Battalion received the official order to deploy with the Dagger Brigade in support of the Global War on Terror. The Soldiers of 1-7 FA completed the necessary training within a condensed timeline and returned to Schweinfurt to prepare for onward movement. Within three weeks, the Battalion's equipment was loaded on boats heading to Kuwait while a handful of brave First Lightning fire supporters were already in Baghdad helping Task Force 1-26 stifle surging violence there.

By September 6, First Lightning had boots on the ground in the sweltering heat of Camp Buehring, Kuwait and began training on the extensive training ranges. The First Lightning warriors honed a wide range of skills that would prepare them for the challenges they would face up north. Each Soldier verified their personal weapon zero, further giving them the confidence they can close with and destroy the enemy. Soldiers conducted a crucial live-fire escalation of force exercise,



designed to train Soldiers to identify increasingly dangerous situations and meet them with the appropriate amount of force. They trained tirelessly on both mounted and dismounted IED lanes, learning how to effectively counter the greatest threat in Iraq – the roadside bomb. They attended classes on the use of advanced equipment capable of neutralizing radio-triggered IED's, which has already saved precious lives. Finally, the 1-7 Soldiers trained on what they do best – slinging 100 pound artillery rounds miles through the air to hit targets within a 25 meter radius.

Outside of the training scene, First Lightning Soldiers also took the time to enjoy the amenities offered at Camp Buehring. During their down time they could be seen flexing their muscles in the gym, eating chow at one of three dining facilities, buying goods at any of the three post exchanges, checking on family back home at the AT&T phone centers and internet cafes, as well as relaxing and enjoying free services at the MWR facilities. The cozy accommodations were a vast improvement from the previous stay in Kuwait. As SPC Totz, a Charlie Battery mechanic put it, "The tents aren't made of canvas and we don't have dirt floors anymore. We also don't have to wait 2 hours to get into the dining facilities or the phone centers."

Our Task Force Guardian and FRG have performed extremely well. They worked tirelessly to ensure that family members were able to spend as much time with their Soldiers before we left and we know they will take care of our families and keep them informed about where we are and what we are doing. The FRG also established a website to help keep everyone informed, check out our drumbeats at <http://www.armyfrg.org>.

Last, but definitely not least, thanks to all the family members who have stuck by this great organization.



This Battalion owes each of you a debt of gratitude for all of your sacrifices. We know you will be rooting for us and we can count on your support in any place in which we might find ourselves.

First Lightning!



Gilas



The Gila Battalion prepared for its deployment by focusing on the Dagger Brigade's four cornerstones of success: Fighting, Fixing, Faith, and Family. It is through these areas of emphasis that the 9th Engineer Battalion has rebuilt itself, and again stands ready to take its place on the front line of the Global War on Terror.

Even though the battalion arrived in theater fully trained, the Gila Battalion took advantage of additional training opportunities in order to meet the challenges of a constantly changing enemy. The battalion trained on the latest Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures (TTPs) for fighting insurgents, defeating Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs), and working with Iraqi Security Forces. During this preparation, all Soldiers confirmed that their weapons operated correctly, received training intended to improve their ability to minimize the effects of IEDs, conducted additional training on Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAV) employment, desert land navigation, working with interpreters and interrogators, and live-fire traffic control point operations. Additionally, some Soldiers were able to get real world training in explosive ordnance destruction by working with an EOD team to destroy unexploded ordnance found near base. All of these training exercises further improved the sharp skills and ability of the Gilas to conduct its mission.



As a Mechanized Engineer Battalion, the Gila Soldiers rely greatly upon their assigned vehicles and equipment to accomplish each assigned mission. Upon arrival to Kuwait, every member of the Battalion was involved in receiving, reassembling, or repairing their equipment after it arrived. As the Gila's quickly learned when they received their equipment, maintenance in the desert demands strict discipline and attention to detail.

While all vehicles and MILVANS made it safely to Kuwait, there proved to be much work to be done in order to bring all equipment to fully mission capable status. Among the greatest challenges facing Gilas were maintaining the cleanliness of their air filters, hydraulic cylinders, rubber gaskets, and monitoring fluid levels in all of their vehicles. Soldiers spent countless hours in the hot Kuwaiti sun turning wrenches, performing PMCS on their gear and vehicles, reinstalling communication equipment, conducting commo checks, and lubing their vehicles as a step in the fight against the ever-present sand and dust. The culmination of the maintenance program here in Kuwait is the restarting of a service program, which will conduct services on a normal schedule throughout our deployment. Maintaining an ever-present focus on "FIXING" ensures the Gila Battalion always has the right tools to complete any mission.

Although the deployment has taken us away from our family and loved ones, the 9E Family Readiness Groups and Rear-Detachment have gone above and beyond the expectations to keep our Soldiers informed on the going-ons in the Schweinfurt community. Through drumbeats, newsletters, emails, letters, phone calls, and packages that move from Germany to Kuwait in less than five days, the Gilas manage to stay in touch with their families. The daily mail call has already established itself as one of the highlights of the daily routine here in Kuwait, and is looked forward to by all.

Finally, through our faith, the Gilas are coping with the stresses that come with a combat deployment. Demanding work schedules, austere environments, the pressures of combat, separation from loved ones are all stressors that test the faith of the 9E Soldiers on a daily basis. Through daily thoughts and encouraging words, the Unit Ministry Team helps your Soldiers make it through the day. With ten worship services, and more than eight Bible study groups or other faith-based activities, the Soldiers have plenty of faith based events to help them not just survive the deployment but to grow Spiritually. In addition to spiritual faith, our Soldiers have adopted and gained faith in their military leaders; an acceptance that they are well led, and can count on the abilities of their leaders when required. As we continue training on engineer, maneuver, and Contemporary Operating Environment (COE) skills, the Gilas of the great 9th Engineer Battalion proudly stand ready to move onward, take over any given mission, and honorably fulfill any tasks given to the Soldiers of the battalion.



First to Cross!!!

Lifeline

Camp Buehring, Kuwait is a great place for 299th Forward Support Battalion Soldiers to acclimatize to the desert climate in preparation for our OIF 06-08 mission. Yes, the weather is hot and most of the sand is soft, but life is good here for the Lifeline Soldiers. There is plenty of water to stay hydrated, excellent dining facilities, a great gymnasium, calling centers, internet cafes, and so much more. Best of all, Lifeline Soldiers are participating in and enjoying lots of high speed training to keep them combat ready. And to top it off, they are all getting beautiful tans on their necks and hands. Nobody needs to worry; Charlie Company has plenty of sun block available at their Aid Station for Lifeline Soldiers.



The NCOs of the battalion have been training our Soldiers hard in the desert heat, with some of the training facilitated by experienced war veterans who travel all over the war zone, getting the latest tactics and procedures from units currently in combat, to keep us up to date and highly prepared to continue the War on Terror in Iraq. The first training that Lifeline Soldiers participated in was verifying their weapon zeroes on their assigned primary weapons. This gave our Soldiers the confidence in the weapons that they need to move north into Iraq. The chance to shoot additional ammunition is a chance that no Soldier in the unit ever turns down. Lifeline Soldiers continue train on the fundamentals of Improvised Explosive Devices, driver's training for armored vehicles, Close Quarters Marksmanship, and other excellent opportunity training that we are continuing from Schweinfurt and Grafenwoehr such as conducting Medical Evacuation (MEDEVAC) training

with pilots from the Navy's 251st NAAD (Naval Air Ambulance Detachment).

The Improvised Explosive Devices training was taught by explosive ordinance experts from the U.S. Army and focused on the different types of IEDs and procedures on detecting and defeating IEDs. Our Soldiers received a block of instruction from Coalition forces on identifying Coalition forces in Iraq, focused on preventing fratricide. The training covered the types of vehicles that Coalition forces operate with in Iraq, along with their markings and how they will react when meeting our convoys on the highways.

Lifeline Soldiers learned different techniques and maneuvers to use when encountering the enemy at close distance during Close Quarters Marksmanship (CQM) training. They shot at close target silhouettes using maneuvers such as flanking to the right, left, or behind them. Lifeline Soldiers also practiced these moves while walking or running as a squad.

Alpha Company's fuelers were able to take advantage of the local airfield and civilian support and train on hot refueling operations. The Assassins learned how to use civilian aviation fueling equipment, the procedures involved in fueling different types of helicopters, and how to refuel helicopters safely.

Bravo Company "Bandits" and Charlie Company "Grave Robbers" participated in MEDAVAC training with the U.S. Navy. Our Soldiers trained on using hand and arm signals to signal aircraft and loading and unloading patients on U.S. Navy helicopters. The 251st NAAD has trained with over 2,500 Soldiers to date, and the Soldiers of Bravo and Charlie were more than happy to be among them. Seven, highly motivated Hell Cats participated in the Camp Buehring Labor Day 5K during their first week in Kuwait. These seven Hell Cats that participated in this fun run were SFC (P) Casarez, SFC Bingham, SSG Brown, SSG Belvin, SGT (P) Welker, SGT Nunez, and PVT Phan. They all received t-shirts for being among the first 500 runners to complete the Camp Buehring Labor Day 5K. SFC (P) Casarez and SSG Brown won first place for their respective brackets. They both were presented medallions by the Camp Buehring MWR coordinator for their accomplishments.



In closing I would like to personally thank all the family and friends we have in the Schweinfurt community and back in the U.S. for all the support we have received in the past few weeks. It's your support that we need to accomplish the difficult mission we will have in the weeks and months to come. The leaders of the battalion are insuring that our Soldiers have the best training possible prior to going north into Iraq. With help from the Rear-Detachment and the FRGs we will keep you as informed as possible as we receive our mission, move north, occupy our battlespace and begin to conduct full-spectrum operations. Until next month...

-Lifeline 6 Out.

Renegades



The Renegades arrived at Camp Buehring on 29 August 2006, minus a twelve Soldier military police detachment that had been here since early August, and immediately began a focused training regimen. This training was designed to allow the Renegades to sustain their high level of readiness that was achieved during two gunnery rotations at Grafenwohr and one maneuver training rotation at Hohenfels prior to deployment. The Dagger Military Police Platoon and Platoon from 1-7 FA, have also conducted all of the training events with the BRT. Urban operations have been a major focus since arrival at Camp Buehring in Kuwait. The BRT has conducted two separate days of training at the Mobile MOUT site focusing initially on battle drills and

kinetic operations with the second day of training focusing on interaction with the local population, detainee operations, and sensitive site exploitation. Arabic speaking role players were used to simulate the civilian population with mannequin targets simulating insurgents. Additionally, all platoons executed squad and platoon live fire exercises at the Range 5 shoothouse complex.

In addition to an urban operations focus, all Soldiers have test fired their personal weapons to ensure full functionality and have zeroed their weapons. All soldiers have also continued to perfect their close quarters marksmanship skills which enable them to execute quick engagements in an urban environment.



As we continue to anticipate moving north, the BRT continues to conduct counter IED (improvised explosive device) training. We have conducted several classes on the latest enemy IED tactics and next week will conduct dry and live fire exercises incorporating numerous types and scenarios involving IEDs. We have also been training on CREW systems to make us better at defeating the IED threat.



Both BRT platoons and the MP platoon worked with the UAV platoon of C/101 MI in order to conduct cordon and search missions with the aid of a UAV. The UAV provided the Renegades with route reconnaissance while they traveled by HMMWV to their objective. Once the platoons arrived at their objective, the UAV used its IR pointer to guide the Renegades to the target house.

Finally, the BRT conducted a two day training event designed to improve the Renegades ability to conduct PSD missions. During this event the BRT received class room instruction from experienced veterans

with years of military experience. The BRT driver's conducted training to master techniques needed to safely maneuver a HMMWV during combat operations. The final portion of this training event was a dismounted and mounted integrated live fire exercise. During the live fire, the Renegades protected a VIP from the enemy while engaging targets with live ammunition. During all of this training, the MP platoon had the additional task of escorting all of the Brigade Combat Team personnel and equipment safely through different parts of Kuwait to Camp Buehring. The Military Police achieved this goal by working long days and nights and coordinating with the Air Force and the Kuwaiti Police. None of the Dagger Brigade's Training could have been achieved without the hard work of the MP platoon. Long days of training and continuous personnel and equipment escorts throughout Kuwait have kept the BRT busy during our first weeks here. We will continue to leverage every training opportunity available to us in Kuwait to ensure that we are prepared for any future mission.



PREPARED AND LOYAL!

Crusaders

We've been on the ground now for a little less than two weeks and we're steadily unpacking and meeting the training objectives that we must so we're prepared for the mission we're assigned. Each member of the company is housed in two large air conditioned tents with the headquarters platoon bunked up with the HUMINT platoon and the ACT/CGS Soldiers while the TUAS and SIGINT platoons live about ten feet away. The days get up to 125 degrees and we get a welcome break starting at around 7:00 p.m. when we get as low as 80 degrees or so. No one's hurting for something to eat as we have three large dining facilities, Burger King, Kentucky Fried Chicken, Subway, Taco Bell and many other options for "junk" food. There's even a Starbucks knock off called the Green Beans and their frozen coffees seem to be the biggest hit among our troopers. We're rapidly approaching the change of command which takes place on 26 September at 0700. I want to say thanks to each of you for supporting your Soldier. It's the little things that make what you do important and impact our unit in big ways. From the letters you write to the phone calls you stay up late at night to receive, all you do matters. Thanks



TUAS- The fly guys keep on flying. Under Charlie Ladrillano's leadership this platoon has trained two other platoons for combat while training themselves. Amazing what these young men can do and continue to do for this company, the Brigade and the Army. Recently they've begun training units within the Brigade that don't normally receive TUAS support. They've trained each of these units in the function of their remote video terminal which is the television looking device which displays what the aircraft sees while it's in the air.



Trojan Spirit Team- SSG Delgado, SPC Hoeh and PFC Hartlove are keeping this system operational and testing its full capabilities. We've conducted classified video teleconferencing with other units and been able to keep the system running uninterrupted for over two weeks now. SSG Delgado's team continues to get compliments on its professionalism and expert knowledge of this system from leadership within and external to the Brigade.

Task Force 1-26 Infantry Tactical HUMINT Team- the Company's very first deployers were SGT Brady, SPC Widener and PFC Cobb. TF Brady as we call them is still with the Blue Spaders and doing well. We're going to be promoting PFC Cobb to SPC based on his continued excellent performance and we'll be preparing SPC Widener for the SGT promotion board over the next two months as he continues to display exceptional leadership qualities in a deployed environment. Still no word as to when we'll link up these great troopers with the rest of

the company, but when I know, you'll know.

Headquarters- The HQ's platoon has set up the company command post in a room about 10' x 20' where the 1SG, CPT Lee, SSG Lutz, SGT Wells and I all work. It's cozy, but we've got enough space to turn our chairs when someone's got a good joke. All is fine and we're running 24 hour operations so if anyone has the need we've got someone here who can get in contact with who you need them to. The DSN number to our office is (318) 828-2052. CPT Lee has done an excellent job planning for the change of command among many other things. He's also been assigned as the company photographer so make sure you get your photo requests to him at Andrew.c.lee@us.army.mil.

Melissa continues to serve this company in a selfless capacity that makes me very grateful that she is the wife of our company 1SG. Thanks Melissa for the countless hours you've spent making things easier for us all. From the aerobics planning to the goody bags to the decorations for our departure, I thank you.

Duty First! Crusaders!

Dagger's Voice

The 57th Signal Company continues to get realistic training here in Kuwait while keeping everyone safe and sound. We have conducted Close Quarters Marksmanship training, Entry Control Point training, Tactical Maneuver Counter IED training, Warlock systems training, and Blue Force Tracker training among many others. While all of this tactical training is being conducted, our Soldiers continue to maintain a stable network 24/7. Our NetOps continues to employ technical training for the company as well in order to keep all of our Team Chiefs and operators proficient.

The weather here is getting cooler as the highs lately have only gotten to about 110 degrees. Most Soldiers are on 12 hour shifts but that still leaves time for other activities. We have also made time for working-out,



playing volleyball, going to the three different PXes, and several food stands like Pizza Hut, Taco Bell, gourmet coffee, etc. The mess halls are first rate with a wide selection to choose from. Our sleeping tents, although cramped have air conditioning and are reasonably comfortable...at night it even gets cold.

1SG Carter is also working to get Soldiers enrolled in the savings program and educational opportunities. Several NCOs and Soldiers are currently taking classes either online or at the Education Center, working toward their degree and further promotion. In the words of the 1SG, "The key to advancement in the Army and life is education". He leads from the front in this area and it gives the Soldiers who hope to one day be 1SGs the motivation that they need. Other Soldiers who are planning to get out of the Army also know that they need the educational requirement in addition to their technical knowledge to meet their full potential.

The families of the 57th Signal company have started the wait for us to come home for R&R and ultimately for good. They have gotten off to a marvelous start which will be the foundation for which they get through our deployment. Our FRG, lead by Mrs. Susie Gawlik, have really come together to help support each other as well as support us.

Maintaining routines and a positive attitude, setting goals, communicating with others, volunteering, staying busy by taking a class, going on trips, etc., helps their time go by in a nice way. Mrs. Yolanda White is helping out by organizing our monthly meetings, special events and fundraiser. She organized



their last meeting at the the bowling alley and she did a great job! It was nice to see so many of them getting together, having a good time, to include some of the single soldiers as well!

Our reliable POC Mrs. Debby Pedroza has gotten a well deserved Certificate of Appreciation signed by COL Burton. Thank you Debby and Thanks to all Volunteers for your work for the FRG! It is appreciated! We would also like to thank our Rear Detachment for getting fully engaged with our FRG. This integration keeps the families informed and lets them know that they truly are apart of this TEAM!

DAGGER'S VOICE!

Silver Lions



The main body of the Silver Lions arrived at Camp Buehring on 31 August 2006, joining up with the brigade TAC that had been here since early August assisting in the employment of Task Force 1-26 to Baghdad. The company immediately established the Brigade Tactical Operations Center as well as completed training designed to sustain the high level of readiness achieved during two gunnery rotations at Grafenwoehr Training Area and one maneuver rotation at Hohenfels Training Area.

In addition to the primary focus of the Brigade Tactical Operations Center (TOC), the Soldiers of the Silver Lions have trained on various infantry tactics and other combat tasks. Beginning on Range 6, the Silver Lions zeroed all small arms in the company and quickly learned basic rifleman tactics with a course

on Close-Quarters Marksmanship (CQM).

The company then moved to the entry control point (ECP) training lane where they learned how to prevent an enemy vehicle from breaching an entrance gate to a forward operating base (FOB). This training is integral for learning how to protect FOBs as we will eventually move north. During the ECP lane, all Soldiers received a full class on CQM and continued to perfect their marksmanship skills, which enables them to execute quick engagements in an urban environment.

Finally, the Silver Lions have conducted counter-IED (improvised explosive device) training. The company has received various classes to ensure we are successful in identifying the latest enemy IED tactics. We have also been training on the latest equipment and technology to make us better at defeating the IED threat. During the counter-IED lane, the company once again trained on CQM to ensure that we are ready for any enemy threat at any time.

With such quality training completed enthusiastically, safely, and to standard, it is easy to understand why the Soldiers, non-commissioned officers, and officers of the Silver Lions are of the highest caliber in the Army as they continue to support one of the greatest TOCs in the Army. The Silver Lion Soldiers work a 12-hour day supporting the TOC and brigade staff operations, then move to the range for training to prepare for operations in Iraq. With the hard work and dedication to duty these Soldiers show during a normal week, we know why they were chosen to continue the tradition of the Greatest Brigade Combat Team ever formed.

STRENGTH AND HONOR!



Silver Lions perform a live-fire exercise of Tactics, Techniques, and Procedures at the ECP lane.



Members of the Silver Lions hone their infantry skills on the CQM range.